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DIT Bolton Street Students' Union

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THE STUDENT/APPRENTICE

Newspaper of Bolton St. Students' Union

Vol.2 No.12 May 21st '81



Student Victims

One of the recurring themes in industrial relations in the Dublin City VEC colleges over the past five years has been the boycotting of exam work by teachers in the colleges. This year, once again, a breakaway group, the Dublin Colleges Academic Staff Association, has refused to set exam papers. By their action they have jeopardised the exam performance of hundreds of students and possibly irreparably damaged the career prospects of final year students.

The whole business is grossly unfair to students, indeed as one VEC member remarked, the students are effectively being held up to ransom by the teachers. Worse, they are using the students and their exams as a cheap alternative to outright strike action. Any group of workers is entitled to withdraw their labour. But by doing so, they put themselves at risk and in most cases lose a substantial part of their earnings while on strike. But what the Dublin colleges teachers are effectively doing, is retaining the comfort of their jobs and their salaries, while achieving maximum disruptive effect at the expense of the students.

The VEC has made every effort to meet the demands of the teachers; they have been offered a very considerably enhanced salary scale by an independent arbitrator. One must ask: what more do they want?

The students, for their part, have been more than patient. In the face of what amounts to direct victimisation by their teachers, they have made every effort to achieve a peaceful solution. It is time that the teachers agreed to set the papers, and allowed the students to sit their exams.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

STUDENT VICTIMS

Sir, — Once again you have used your editorial columns (April 9th) to attack a group of workers who are standing up for their legitimate rights. This time it is the teachers of the Dublin VEC Colleges.

It is unfortunate for the students that the exams ban is the teachers' most powerful weapon. Yet the facts of this dispute have been well known since last summer — plenty of time, surely, for the relevant authorities (the VEC and Department of Education) to sort it out. The teachers have gone to the brink many times over the last few years but have always stopped short due to their concern for the students.

The whole business is indeed grossly unfair to students, not because of the teachers but because the root of the problem lies in the policies of successive Governments to run the Dublin VEC colleges, on the cheap. In comparison to other institutions

our college, Bolton Street College of Technology, is indeed "a slum" as stated in your paper last week by Christina Murphy.

It is not true to say that the VEC has made every effort to meet the demands of the teachers. They have still not been paid for last year's exams. The enhanced salary scale mentioned in your editorial is due anyway under a previous parity arrangement with second-level teachers. They are still being paid considerably less than their colleagues in comparable institutions (universities and NIHEs). On top of that sort of injustice 30% of the teaching service is provided by part-time teachers in colleges like Bolton Street. These teachers have no pension rights, holiday pay, sick benefit etc. This is a vicious casual labour system that would not be tolerated in any other industry.

It is hypocritical of the VEC to accuse the teachers of "holding the students up to ransom" when the VEC has failed over the years

to stand up to the Department of Education's efforts to run down the system. The students also want many of the things that the teachers are looking for — proper remuneration for lecturers (which is vital to maintain the quality of the courses); proper facilities for teaching research and student welfare — in short, a college at least as good as other (admittedly underfinanced) existing institutions and not the "slums" we have at the moment.

We as students want our exams, but we also want the issue sorted out once and for all. We have no interest in our teachers being exploited and in fact suffered a consequence of the teachers putting up with deplorable conditions in the VEC colleges. We will not be used by the VEC, the Department of Education or your paper as a stick to beat the teachers. — Yours etc.

TOMMY GRAHAM,
Deputy President,
Students' Union,
College of Technology,
Bolton Street, Dublin 1.

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Thanks!

We would like to take the opportunity in this, the final (free!) Student Apprentice to thank all those people who contributed to its success - you, for reading it, the many people who contributed both regularly and irregularly and our typist Rose who had to endure illegible writing and illogical editing. See you all next year (unless of course you are a final year student!)

We hear that at its April meeting, the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee, passed a resolution which proposes the building of an extension to this College. The area of the extension will be about 6,500 square metres (or about 60% of the floor area of the main building).

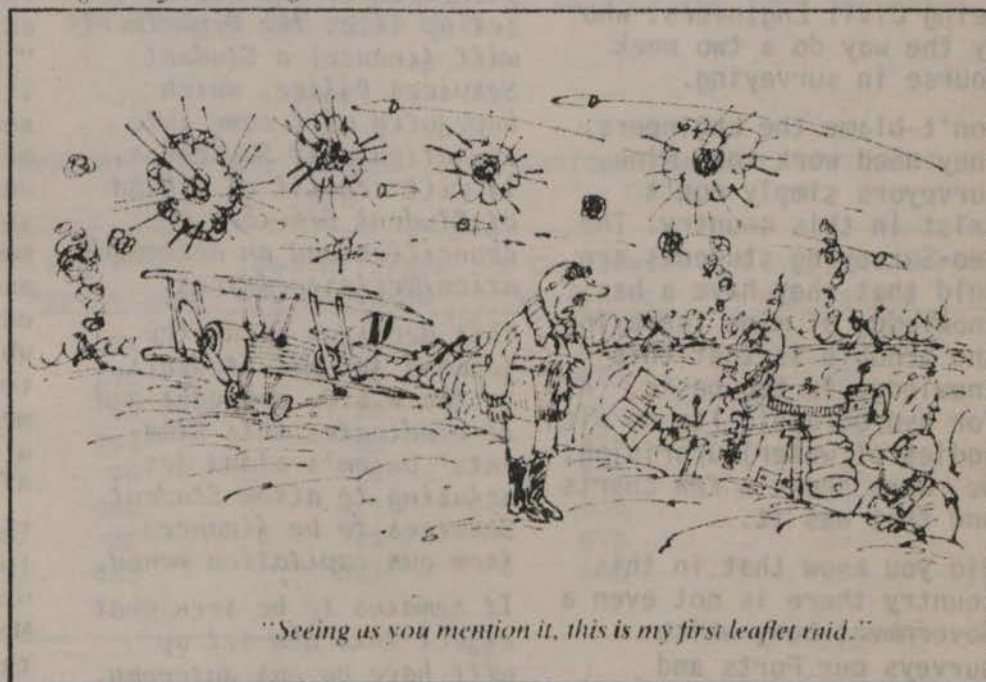
AT LONG LAST THE V.E.C. HAS GOT OFF ITS BUTT!

When we occupied the College administration in January/February last year the authorities expressed annoyance and surprise at the fact that we didn't use the procedures! OUR POINT THEN WAS THAT THE V.E.C. COULD NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE LACK OF FACILITIES DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S REFUSAL TO GRANT MONEY FOR EXTENSIONS THAT NOBODY HAD PLANNED LET ALONE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE FOR APPROVAL. NOT AT LEAST FIFTEEN MONTHS LATER WE HAVE A RESOLUTION.

For eleven years the chairman of the V.E.C. Mr. Donegan has moaned and complained about the Department of Education's lack of support for "his" committee's work. He has even blamed the parents of the students for the deplorable state of the V.E.C. Colleges on conferring days. During the teachers' dispute he attacked the teachers for "holding the students to ransom".

Well (so Mr. Donegan gets it clear!) the problem is not of the teachers, nor of the students, nor of their parents making. It was caused by your incompetent bungling and exaggerated idea of your own self importance. You and your committee are being used to run the education system on the cheap by the Department. - For if that were not the case you and your committee would have been fired by the Department if it had any concern for Dublin third level education.

Our parting note therefore to end the year is a warning to the V.E.C. and its political hacks to look out if they don't follow their resolutions with some action!



"Seeing as you mention it, this is my first leaflet raid."

Geo-Surveying

Geo-Surveying is now in the position of possibly becoming a nationally recognised course. This has come about after years of agitation by the students passing through the course. This agitation, however, I feel could have been more organised by the students. The students did, and do, feel that the Geo-Surveying course should impart more flexibility to the Surveyor in his working life, and this can come about by giving a National Award and also by teaching all surveying subjects on an equal footing. It is going to be interesting to see whether or not the Academic Council of the V.E.C. will pass on the request for recognition along with all the documentation. The request must go through a series of committees, bodies etc., before it goes to the N.C.E.A. the body who actually give the Award.

In the meantime people will be screwed around, not knowing what sort of qualification they are going to get after their two or three years graft in the College. There is not a whole lot of information forthcoming from the people running the course, I wonder whose side are they on, whose interests are they serving? - Ours?

On the point of what is taught in the course, people are being geared towards being land Surveyors. In the meanwhile, most of the Mine Surveyors, and certainly the senior Mine Surveyors are foreigners or have been retrained from being Civil Engineers, who by the way do a two week course in surveying.

Don't blame the Engineers, they need work too, Mine Surveyors simply don't exist in this country. The Geo-Surveying students are told that they have a basic knowledge of mine surveying, the trouble is that this knowledge is too basic. As for hydrographic (to do with bodies of water) surprising, we were shown a few charts and that was it.

Did you know that in this country there is not even a Government body which surveys our Ports and Territorial waters. The

Royal Navy do it, and not very well either. So when our Government decides to do it, and this is happening soon, there will be no trained Irish personnel!

While there is a demand for Land Surveyors in this country, it is not the only type of Surveyor needed, and after all we are Geo-Surveyors not Land Surveyors, at least in name.

Brian Stone

New Student Services

The Department of Education has given the go-ahead in principle to the V.E.C. to set up (i.e. the Department will finance) a Student Services Office, which hopefully will come into operation next September. It will consist of a Head of Student Services, a councillor and an accommodation/Welfare officer.

This decision is a step forward for all students in the V.E.C. colleges and it vindicates this Students' Union's stand for refusing to allow Student Services to be financed from our capitation money.

It remains to be seen what effect this new set up will have on our autonomy.

New Constitution?

Copies of the new draft constitution are now available in the Students' Union office. The draft was drawn up by the Constitutional Commission which was elected by the Students' Union Council earlier in the year. The document was then submitted to another S.U.C. last April for discussion and it was decided that the referendum should take place in the autumn after further discussion at the first General Meeting of next year. Copies of the present constitution are also available.

The first six sections of the constitution are its most important. These deal with definition - "The Union is an autonomous democratic body maintained by the students to defend their rights and further their interests"; aims and objections - "The Union shall fight for and advance the interests of students in the College on all matters concerning their education and their economic, political, social and cultural welfare", organizational principles - which stress the autonomy of the Union and the way students should be organized, "The Union shall rely on its membership as its prime source of strength and pay meticulous attention at ensuring the conscious involvement of the entire membership in its decisions and activities"; and educational principles - which deal with course content, assessment based on merit and student participation in all decisions affecting their courses.

The rest of the constitution deals with the structures of the Union (General Meetings etc.) and involved the removal of a lot of unnecessary waffle from the

Contd. on p.6

Raw Deal for Apprentices?

In the first issue of the paper at the start of the year the President of the Students' Union welcomed the setting up of the Apprentice Committee to sort out the many problems of apprentices in the College. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons it didn't get off the ground. Are we to presume, therefore, that apprentices don't have problems serious enough to be dealt with by such a committee? The answer is most definitely no.

NO ORGANIZATION

An important part of this year's Union programme was to develop a more critical awareness among students and apprentices of course content and exam systems.

A limited success has been achieved in this area through meetings, articles in the paper etc. However, the area where most work was required, the trades courses, was left largely untouched. This is where an Apprentice Committee could do vital work in ensuring that the interests of apprentices are protected. The present Apprenticeship Curriculum Advisory Committee, set up by AnCO to review apprentice courses, has representatives of employer, trade union, educational and training interests but no apprentices. Which isn't surprising since at the moment they don't have their own organization.

SOMETHING WRONG

This paper has highlighted many of the problems that exist in the "third level" courses. The same problems, overcrowding, lack of teachers, etc., exist in the trade courses - only worse. A glance at the table below, showing pass rates for the Senior Trade exams, indicates that there is something drastically wrong with the present system. What is even more disturbing is that in some trades only a fraction of 4th year apprentices managed even to do exams. It should be borne in mind that the Senior Trades test apprentice in the basic skills of the trade. Many apprentices feel the necessity to do City and Guilds exams to augment their basic qualifications but these are currently being reorganized and there is some doubt whether the courses and exams will

be as accessible to people in Ireland as they have been in the past.

THE FUTURE?

So what are the prospects for the future? The College itself has drawn up many laudable plans for future development. For instance, the Engineering Trades Department has plans for a comprehensive maintenance-fitter type course and a craft-based technician course. It will be impossible, however, to implement these plans without a genuine commitment from the Department of Education (i.e. money for an expanded College), a commitment that up to now has been singularly lacking. Does the Department of Education feel itself responsible for the apprentices? AnCO is, after all, under the auspices of the Department of Labour.

HUMAN MACHINES

What of the "New Apprent-

PERCENTAGE OF APPRENTICES WHO PASSED THE SENIOR TRADE CERTIFICATE IN 1978

TRADES	4th Year Apprentices	Senior Trade Candidates	% Candidates who passed	% Apprentices who passed
Carpenters	474	257	64%	35%
Plumbers	186	47	93%	16%
Plasterers	99	19	35%	5%
Bricklayers	154	30	47%	8%
Painters	98	25	25%	6%
Fitters/Turners	442	417	50%	47%
Welders	25	12	67%	32%
Motor Mechanics	625	521	66%	55%

iceship" and the Apprenticeship Curriculum Advisory Committee? Many in the apprenticeship field, including the Head of the School of Trades, Matt Farrell, feel that the new set-up may be a step backwards for apprentices, with less emphasis on education (which is their right) and more on turning out human machines with basic training to service the industrial capitalists of the country.

The need for apprentices to organize in their own committee was never more urgent than at present and it remains one of the Students' Union's top priorities in conjunction with the Trade Unions if necessary, to help in this task. Otherwise apprentices will continue to get the raw deal they have been getting up to now●

H-BLOCK HYSTERIA

On Wednesday 6th May the Students' Union Executive called an Emergency General Meeting to reassess our position on the H-block issue in the light of the death of Bobby Sands M.P. The motion passed at the General Meeting before Christmas stated that "this Students' Union should have no policy on the H-block issue and rejects its previous stand" (to support the prisoners).

Well over a hundred people including a large number of apprentices, attended the meeting. Unfortunately the meeting degenerated into the same hysteria as the pre-Christmas General Meeting because of a small section's implacable opposition to the prisoners, on the grounds that they were "common criminals" "murderous" etc., despite the fact that 30,000 people had voted for Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone bye-election, despite the fact that over 70,000 people attended his funeral

in Belfast and despite the undeniable sentiment of people all over the country, whatever their political affiliations, to have the issue sorted out. Even the old chestnut of "politics in the Union" was thrown up!

In the event it wasn't possible to change Union policy because the meeting was inquorate (i.e. there were less than 200 people people).

A suggestion that the meeting should continue as simply "a meeting of Bolton St. Students" was rejected and the meeting proper came to an end. Those students and apprentices who supported the prisoners stayed behind and held a Bolton St. H-block/Armagh Committee meeting. The result of this meeting was that a march to the G.P.O. under the Bolton St. H-block committee banner was organized for the following day (the day of the Sands funeral), which was very well supported (over 100 people).

It is obviously too late in the year now to get a quorate General Meeting on this issue and we can only hope that some solution will have been reached by the time we come back to College next term, a pious hope maybe, given the intransigent attitude of the British Government.

Serious, dispassionate discussion on the wider aspects of the national question is long overdue in this College. In the meantime the patriotic prisoners in Long Kesh and Armagh, as opponents of British Imperialism in Ireland, should be supported.

Tommy Graham

Contd. from p. 4

present constitution. The main changes are a re-allocation of responsibilities on the Executive to make them more workable and a different Students' Union Council (renamed the Representative Assembly) which will no longer have club and society representatives on it. Special Convenors from various courses / departments/annexes to represent their special interests will also be members of the Assembly. There is also a large schedule to the constitution which contains some of the more "mechanical" sections which may need to be changed from time to time eg. the responsibilities of Executive members. Whereas the constitution can only be changed by a majority in a referendum, the schedule can be changed by a 2/3 majority of a

General Meeting.

The aim of the Commission throughout its deliberations was to produce a workable constitution that was not just a "book of rules" but which laid down a clearly defined set of principles to which all students could appeal if the need arose. It also attempts to get away from the idea of the Union being a purely "service" organization i.e., the shop etc., or of the Union being just another part of the College like the Canteen, Library etc.

That is why the first sections are so detailed. They are in fact based on the experiences (some bitter) of students in the College in recent years. Provision may be made for certain sections to be voted on separately if there is a sufficient body of opinion in favour.

Student Position Put to Workers

Last March the Students' Union President received and accepted an invitation (in a private capacity) to address Craigavon Trades Council. Below we reprint his address because we feel it contains many points relevant to the sorting out of the problems of students and apprentices in particular and society in general. -Ed.

INTRODUCTION

Craigavon Trades Council's initiative gives practical expression to the common interest of workers and students in education. Similarly, Galway Trades Council has gone to the stage of having a student representative as a member. Tonight I would like to present to your Council some of the problems we face as students on the economic and academic front; on the level of organising as students in our Union and some of my particular views on these issues as a Marxist - Leninist.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CUTS IN EDUCATION

The Union of Students in Ireland covers the entire country, and is thus directly involved in two administrative areas in two different states. These northern six counties are jointly catered for by the National Union of Students and U.S.I. In both parts of the country the profound world-wide economic crisis is having its effect in denying many of the basic rights of the people to education.

Since '75 when the crisis first became acute, Labour and Tory; Fianna Fail and Coalition Governments have sought to cut back on basic services including education. In the north under the guise of a 'review' - called the Chilver Report - the state is planning a cutback in the number of teachers trained - up to 29%. This has caused much anxiety to many people as this particular cut masquerades as the answer to the problem of establishing "integrated education" in the north. The cuts have also halted the building of on Campus accommod-

ation for students in places like Ulster Polytechnic have meant the turning off of lights in areas like corridors and canteens in Derry Technic; in cuts in teaching services etc.

More recently the Tory Government has stepped in to finish off what the Labour Government started - the subversion of the students' unions so that they would become part and parcel of the College administrations. At a time when the education service is faced with severe cuts, when access for working class people to third level education is a dream, the students' unions are being forced to barter for their finances just like the library, restaurant or Science department. This move by the Tory government is the logical conclusion of Labour's massive buying off of the students' unions through provision of bars etc.etc.

In the north the British racist policy of full-cost fees to foreign students now applies. Foreign students will have to pay anything from £2,500 (Arts) to £6,000 (medicine). In these ways the education

services are being cut back, become more the preserve of those who can afford it - the sons and daughters of the rich - but also the students are experiencing in a lesser form some of the effects of the crisis when the working class is more and more being burdened with.

In the south the open economy, wide open to foreign multinational plunder, the crisis is having disastrous effects on education. In one working class area of 40,000 people in Dublin less than 10 people are in full-time third level education (Ballyfermot). We have the lowest participation rate in Europe (about 11% against 22%). In the 6 local authority third level Technical Colleges in Dublin the budget has been cut by £1m. for the last two years. The Universities are cutting courses, staff etc., and are faced with debts of £6. - £7m. There is virtually no on-campus accommodation for students. Less than 25% get any grant in universities and less than 4% in Technical Colleges. At the moment the teachers are waging a struggle at all levels for better pay. Only by threatening strike action have first and second level teachers won pay rises. At this moment in time the students in fifteen Technical Colleges are not certain of having exams., due to the struggle between the third level teachers and the State. In my own College which takes in more and more students each year it is 40% too small; 30% of all teaching is by casual labour; staff are paid £2. - £3,000 less than fellow lecturers and the part-timers only 1/3 of that!

For various reasons, some of which I will speak of later, such as weakness of organisation and time, and confusion as to where their interests lie, the student movement has fought only fitfully over the last six or seven years. But there are signs that this is changing and not just in fighting the cuts.

THE ANTI-WORKING CLASS NATURE OF EDUCATION

There is a growing movement amongst the students against the anti-people, anti-working class nature of the education system - its course content. This was a major feature of the student movement in the late sixties and early seventies when the students views were concentrated and developed by opposition to the Vietnam War and support for the civil rights struggles in Ireland and abroad.

Many of the preconceived unquestioned "facts" are being challenged now as a result of the questioning spurred on by the Iranian, Polish, Afghanistan and other situations and the struggle of the patriotic prisoners in Ireland.

Not only is history, sociology, economics taught in such a way as to deny the historical task of the working class to establish socialism but anyone who stands up for the truth risks failure in exams and unemployment.

THE STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION: THE UNION

With the severity of the crisis, the worsening conditions for the people outside and inside education, the students have been more and more forced to fight back. They have found their Union definitely wanting in its ability to

lead the struggle against the Government's policies and the College authorities. For the last ten years U.S.I. has had a leadership and a line which relegated the students to the sidelines.

To a large extent it still has the same line but persistent efforts have begun to pay off in the election this year of a leadership that has promised to lead the fight against the cuts, against suppression of democratic rights.

I am part of this new leadership that has exposed the whole practice of endlessly negotiating away students rights due to the fact that no concessions were granted in negotiations to leaders who did not organise the students to fight on their own behalf. We have removed those people who dishonestly called themselves representatives (in the sense of being 'dustbins' for a variety of views) while in fact they used the organisation in an undemocratic manner to enhance personal career prospects.

The theories advanced for their activity is contained in the idea that a more democratic society can be guaranteed by a more democratic education system. This is to ignore the role of the education system in preserving the status quo. The struggle for access of the working class to education, the struggle of the students in the education system will undoubtedly prepare them to participate in the struggle for a profound change in society i.e., socialism and national unity. The leadership did not develop methods and ideas to involve the students

in struggle against cuts, for correct ideas

POLITICAL WORK AMONGST STUDENTS

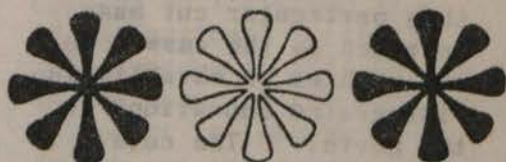
As a Marxist-Leninist my view is to fight for the unity of the students in their union around their common interests irrespective of religion or political ideas. This in no way means that I will not struggle amongst the students to take a stand in support of the working class and the Irish people for genuine independence and unity and socialist revolution.

The academic demands of the students are realisable only in so far as they take up the political struggles of the people. The Governments have tried always to divide the students by means of anti student propaganda as they do against the workers. The leadership of U.S.I. has for a long time capitulated to this and apologises to the Government for our demands telling them better ways to run the capitalist system.

We are in need of the support of the working people for our demands, we must support the struggles of the working class for reforms but ultimately for socialism.

2nd-hand Books

Next term John, The shop manager, is willing to buy and sell second-hand books as a service to students. Hopefully, this should do away with the forest of scribbled notices on the notice-boards!



TALBOT STRIFE

Workers in the Talbot motor company in Santry have stood up against the threatened loss of their jobs. In doing this they have shown that workers when pushed to the brink will fight.

They began their present action after being informed by the Talbot management that they had no choice but to accept redundancy payments. The workers responded when fifteen of them entered the factory premises and barred the gates with chains and lorries on 23rd March. Immediately their fellow workers mounted a large picket in support of the action.

The dispute centres on the retention of 90 jobs guaranteed under an agreement, involving Government, company and unions, made in 1965. This agreement ensures employment for car assembly workers until 1984. Under it the Talbot company are entitled to import fully built up cars, tariff free, providing they observe the terms of the agreement. In their struggle against the company the workers, members of the A.T.G.W.U. are insisting that the agreement terms are complied with and that all redundancy notices should be lifted.

ALL-OUT PICKET

Towards the end of March notification of redundancies were given to the men. At the same time the company publically announced that they had concluded a deal, worth £17m. with the Dunlop tyre company in Cork. The workers became angered and the occupation followed. The A.T.G.W.U. instantly gave official sanction to the action taken by their men. The Union also pressed for an embargo on Talbot parts, and an all-out picket to be called for by the I.C.T.U. The I.C.T.U. agreed and Talbot products and parts ceased moving through the ports.

CLOSURE THREATS

The Talbot company fought back by successfully applying for a court injunction against the occupation. The workers tactically withdrew from the factory and later mounted a 24 hour picket. When the all-out picket was sought, the company declared that it would cease all its commercial operations and would pull out of Ireland altogether if the picket was not lifted by April the 13th.

Despite this the striking workers stood firm and the company were forced to defer their decision. The I.C.T.U. all-out picket was granted and a complete stoppage resulted.

COMMITTAL TO PRISON!

The workers now in a strong position, prepared themselves for a long pitched battle. However, the company did not sit back, and trying to brand the strikers as irresponsible, attempted to have some of them committed to prison. They avoided imprisonment by giving the Court an undertaking to picket peacefully and in small numbers.

The company's offensive also consisted in seeking a Court injunction against the most powerful weapon

in the hands of the workers, the I.C.T.U. embargo and all-out picket. After the picket and embargo were declared unlawful in the High Court, the Unions contested the ruling in the Supreme Court. They were unsuccessful. Thursday (April 30th.) three Supreme Court Judges ruled that the ban on Talbot parts and the I.C.T.U. all-out picket were illegal. The workers also faced the prospect of having one of their representatives, Matt Merrigan, the A.T.G.W.U. District Secretary, put in prison.

STUDENT AND APPRENTICE SUPPORT

These measures must be fought against. We show our support for the Talbot workers. The kind of legislation as it now stands can be used against us in future years when we are employed in our chosen profession or craft. By expressing our support for any campaigns to change the present laws restricting all-out picketing we can help ourselves in a better position when demanding and maintain good living standards and in retaining our jobs.

The Talbot workers should also be supported in their struggle against redundancies. With 126,000 now unemployed naturally there is a scarcity in the number of jobs available. Jobs will be badly needed by us in the future. Yet in a capitalist motivated society when redundancies are made there is no guarantee that the balance of the lost jobs will be made up in the rest of the economy. We should support workers when insisting that jobs should be kept and alternative employment provided in redundancy situations.

Review'81

Equestrian Club

On Monday 9th March the 'Bolton St. Equestrian Club' held their first annual showjumping and combined Dressage competition at the Ashtown Equestrian Centre at Castleknock. The competition was held from 7.00 - 9.30 p.m. in the large indoor Riding School with Miss Fiona Ventges, a well known figure in the equestrian sports world, judging the participants.

Miss Ventges commented on the very high standard of riding in our club since the vast majority of our competitors had not ridden a horse until they joined the club after Christmas of this year.

The competition went ahead from the beginning in great style with no accidents occurring but as the night drew to a close it was the Quantity Surveyors who showed their vast talent in this field. Joe McIntyre showed great promise in the dressage and combining this with an excellent jumping round took the Bolton St. Equestrian Cup and first place. We had a joint second place with Shaun Boyce and Chris Gaffney showing their skill in both sections of the competition.

Third place was taken by Matt Farrelly, who though having a bit of trouble in the dressage did a splendid jumping round taking a well deserved trophy.

But the spectacular round of the night had yet to come. Ann Keating, an Architectural student who had taken only three or four lessons up to the date of the competition, and had never jumped a horse over fences before she came into the arena,

and after doing a very nice dressage round completed the jumping phase and took fourth place. Very close behind her, only two points, came Hugh Farrelly who completed the dressage and jumping phases nicely. The night was brought to a halt with the filling of the cup with champagne and a few pints for chasers in the nearby local.

Even though the Equestrian Club had up to 30 members this year we hope in the future to expand so that other faculties in the College will take interest. A committee will be set up in September so as to get the club off to an early start and bring our members up to such a standard as to compete in the inter Varsity championships which were held at Mill St. Co. Cork this year.

This year we were limited in only having facilities for two lessons a week but next year we hope to have three and thereby will be able to accommodate more students a week for these riding lessons.

At this stage of the year, on behalf of all the members of the Riding Club, I would like to thank the S.U. for the finance given to the Club, and all who assisted during the year, helping to run the Club.

Eugene Martin



Rugby Club

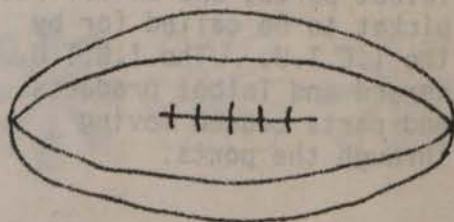
Having won the Gleeson Cup again last season, it was our duty to organize the competition this year. Last year there were 16 competitors from as far away as Letterenny, RTC Tralee which was very encouraging. However, only four teams entered for this year's competition after three circular letters had been sent to all VEC and Regional Colleges.

The teams who entered were Bolton St. Cathal Brugha St. Rathmines and R.T.C. Galway.

Bolton St. were unable to field a team because too many players were playing Senior Rugby and their Clubs would not release them for reasons !!! We had an excellent team on paper and were confident of doing well after last year. The future plans are to run the competition early in the year similar to the Dudley Cup run by the Universities.

It is the winning team who organise next year's competition and we in Bolton St. will seek an early competition.

My thanks to all players who attended Rugby meetings, who I'm sure are very frustrated after a fruitless season and a special mention of thanks to John Dempsey who does a lot of work in organising the Gleeson Cup. Andy Whelan



Contd. from p. 9

DIVERSIFICATION

In Talbot itself the company failed to set up diversification in the Santry plant. This despite guidelines made by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. O'Malley that diversification measures should be implemented by January, 1981. Instead they preferred to take on the workers hoping that they would be easily defeated. Recent events have proved them wrong. At this stage it seems that the Talbot workers, realising they have everything to win and nothing to lose will battle on.

The Talbot dispute has clearly shown that paper agreements (the 1965 maning level agreement) made with capitalist companies are not enough in themselves to guard against the threat of unemployment. More Government measures must be demanded.

ULTIMATE SOLUTION

Industries facing complete closure should be nationalised and put in direct control of the workers themselves. In the Talbot and similar cases money and expertise have to be provided in order to diversify on the product being manufactured. However, worker controlled factories cannot survive in isolation in a capital orientated economy. The nationalisation of finance institutions and major industries is imperative to ensure that the workers would be in control of the economy and thus help guarantee the survival of the industries in our hands.

George Hill

Society of Student Engineers

The S.S.E. as it is commonly known, that revered body of professional engineering students, this year presented a host of wild and wonderful events under the leadership of their talented Executive Committee.

Their leader, the Auditor that is, was for this season that highly acclaimed 3rd year student, Mr. J. Dempsey, a legend in his own lunchtime, was the guiding hand in most of the organisation. Although Mr. Dempsey came in for a lot of slagging during the year, he took it all in good heart, well most of it anyway.

The person who got all the money this year was Miss Schutte one of the three 2nd years on the committee. She kept a tight hand on the purse strings and a keen eye on Mr. D.

A review of the S.S.E.'81 would not be complete without mention of our much absent notetaker and letter writer, Mr. K. Winter. Mr. Winter at times was subject to stern rebuke from the "leader" for his lack of presence, at times both physical and mental at meetings.

Mr. O'Donohue, another 2nd year (God forbid!) had a

and stabilising effect on the committee keeping Mr. D in check at times. He was the I.A.S.T.E. Rep. whatever that is! It must be said however, that he was most efficient in doing his job nobody knew what he was doing!

The other members of the Executive, the silent but diligently hard working S.U.C. reps. deserve a mention for their patience at times with the other members of the committee.

And now for a mention of the wild and wonderful events throughout the year. It started with that mysterious trip to Cork when Mr. D. was violently attacked and lost his trousers among other things (*what other things Ed.*) The trip was quite informative, the students returning with a good census of beer prices in Cork. They also visited a few places of interest such as Rigid Tool Co., Ford, Verholme, Marino Point and Sir. Henry's (restaurant and pub) among other places.

The S.S.E. Dinner Dance was a quite normal affair, all the students present acting quite dignified and dressed for the occasion.

At the Inaugural, the final big event of the year, Pat O'Donnell, a 4th year student gave a most interesting speech, after which all adjourned to the Staff Canteen.

Ann Fitzpatrick



S.E.T.S.

S.E.T.S. is the Society of Civil and Environmental Engineering Technicians. Its' function, as I see it, is to organize educational and social events for its' members, and on those two points I feel that S.E.T.S. has been successful this year.

One of our biggest jobs was organizing the S.E.T.S. Disco in December, although we had a lot of problems with this, (the main one being that the barrels we had ordered never arrived!!) we were more than pleased with the results.

We also borrowed films on 'Concrete Technology' from the Concrete Society and showed them in the Kinema. Although badly attended, the films were most informative and those who attended learned quite an amount.

The most enjoyable thing by far that we arranged all year was the two day trip to Limerick, which was reported on in a previous 'Student Apprentice'.

Despite the fact that this was a financial flop, all of us that went benefited greatly, both educationally and socially.

Thursday of the 'Week of Events' was for us S.E.T.S. Day!

I won't go into it in any detail, but anyone who went into the Canteen on that day can't possibly have failed to notice us!!

At the moment we are trying to arrange an end of year party for S.E.T.S. members, let's hope that it is as successful as everything else we have done.

Our failure for the year was being unable to arrange a day trip. It may sound a very simple thing to do, but it's not. Despite having written to a number of different organizations ranging from Digital in Galway to the I.I.R.S. in Glasnevin, we did not get one single reply!

A review of the year's work is overall most favourable, and thanks is due not only to those who run S.E.T.S. (David Byrne, Keith Rankin and myself) but also to all those members who got involved.

Eithne Brew

Mechanical Technicians Society

Since Christmas members of the M.E.T.S. have been on two industrial trips. One group of 20 went to Shannon-side and visited SPS (nuts and bolts) and Westinghouse (electronics). Another group went to Germany and visited, Basf, Bayer, Montfords (Machine tools) an electric generator manufacturing firm and a nuclear research centre.

Everyone had a great time, especially J.C. who had a fight with a BMW. The Germans will never get over the effects of our tour, on their beer reserves.

The trip only cost about £130 per head (before pocket money) because of a Grant from the German Government. It was well worth spending ten days away, even though exam time was getting near.

Colm Gowran

S.S.S.

The Society of Student Surveyors have succeeded in living up to a strenuous programme this year. The programme involved:-

- 1) A trip to Scotland for the Scotland/Irish Rugby match.
- 2) A trip to Cardiff for the Welsh/Irish Rugby match.
- 3) An informal meeting with members of the R.I.C.S. and 3rd and 4th year students to discuss problems with thesis and job opportunities.
- 4) A rugby match between 3rd year Surveyors and the R.I.C.S. (our team came third).
- 5) A soccer match between the Surveyors and the R.I.C.S. The newly formed soccer team has proved a great success. We have played two friendly matches already. One against those who qualified from the course last year and one against an impromptu team from Belfield. A 50% success record has been achieved so far.

YET TO COME

- 1) A meeting with as many past pupils as possible from the Surveying course to discuss difficulties encountered when starting their careers. This will be in Wilton Place, R.I.C.S. HQ. in the very near future.
- 2) Continued sporting activities, which could include a fishing outing, venue to be decided.
- 3) End of term parties, for want of a better word.

Also at this stage the committee are busy investigating other outlets for entertainment, particularly with a view to holding the annual Surveyors Disco, which to date has proved impossible.

Mick Fitzpatrick

A.I.B Soccer Cup

BOLTON ST. 1

KEVIN ST. 3

FINALS WEEKEND - 10th/12th APRIL

The final stages of the A.I.B. Colleges Soccer cup, being contested by Bolton St., Kevin St., Dundalk R.T.C. and Waterford was held at the week-end 10th-12th April. The draw paired the two Dublin sides together, and it must be said that Bolton St. were favourites entering this tie, having won it the two years previous, they looked really strong for the 3-in-a-row.

On the other hand Kevin St. were competing in their first final stage since 1975 and looked rank outsiders. The match was played in the ground of Bohemians, Waterford on Friday 10th and Kevin St. were fielding the present under 21 International centre half, Jacko McDonagh, who really proved his worth by dictating every movement of his side, and scoring two delightful goals from free kicks.

The holders Bolton St. took the lead in the 35th minute of this keenly contested game when a long kickout from Keeper Richie O'Neill was headed down by Ray Doolin to Mick Gorman whose swerving shot on the volley from 45 yds. gave the Keeper no apparent chance. The jubilation was short lived, however, when 5 mins. later McDonagh went on a goal bound run and he was upended by Paul Meehan on the edge of the box. He took the kick himself and the accurate and tamely struck shot went into the top right corner giving O'Neill no chance.

The sides were level at the interval and after the interval Bolton St. took control and were well on top. Suddenly McDonagh went on a run from mid-field and again he was

needlessly fouled on the edge of the area. After some discussion he again decided to take the kick and this time Mick Gorman stood on the line along with O'Neill but McDonagh's shot was accurate enough to sail over the head of Gorman into the net for a 2-1 lead.

Bolton St. suffered very dearly for those two lapses in concentration, and when they did get back on top again they missed several chances to equalize from some superb Paul Newe crosses.

To add insult to injury, Kevin St. got a third goal when Keeper O'Neill mis-kicked a cross field ball to Doyle into his own net. On the day Kevin St. were deserving and worthwhile winners, while Bolton St., were incomparable with their true selves. Congratulations to Kevin St., who went on to beat Waterford R.T.C. in the final on penalties, having been 4 - 1 down with 20 minutes remaining they pulled back level to force extra time and then penalties.

Anthony Redmond

BOLTON ST. 3

A Hard Day's Night in Achill

Despite the best efforts of UCD Orienteers in limiting the number of places on their bus, Bolton St. sent (and brought back) 16 people from the wilds of Achill.

Most of us spent Saturday travelling to the island, except that is for 3 ultra enthusiastic members who came down on Friday night to avail of an extra day's boozing.

After a hearty and for some heartburning evening meal we set out, compass and map in hand, in search of entertainment. A local described a grand place "that was a wee stroll" down the "road"? We found it after a 45 min. jog. After staggering back to our accommodation we were lullabyed to "sleep"! by "Conor and the Morans" (a short lived Rock group who were later stoned to death).

A remarkable days orienteering followed in which sub-aqua gear might have been more useful than tracksuits. Seriously though all members of both the mens and womens teams must be complimented on their splendid performance. All 4 women and 5 of the 6 men finished their respective courses. This is a great improvement on Bolton St's performance in previous Intervarsity competitions. The fact that only 3 of the 11 team members had more than 1 year's orienteering experience indicates the future potential the club has.

Barry Dalby

DUNDALK R.T.C. 0

On the same day as the final Bolton St. beat Dundalk to finish with a deserved 3rd place, with goals from Paul Masterson (2pens.) and Fred Tiedt. At the presentation of the trophies Paul Masterson was presented with the players "Player of the Year" award, while Tony Redmond received the "Clubman of the Year" Award. Maybe next year will be Bolton St's year.

Film Society

Well another (good, great, sick, boring, pornographic; delete inappropriate) season is now over, but we will be back with (new, old, intellectual, cheap, shallow, deep, funny) films in September. Some of the film titles already lined up for '81/'82 Season are:-

MONTY PYTHON'S -LIFE OF BRIAN (1979)

This is 95% certain at this time, we will know in September.

THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY (1980)

An excellent gangster movie set in London, about the Boss who gets his from the I.R.A.

DRESSED TO KILL (1980)

The complete uncut version of this tremendous thriller.

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (1975)

STALKER 1979

One for the pseud's, an amazing quest film.

MANHATTAN 1979

One of Woody Allen's best efforts to date as he plays his usual neurotic role in New York, with fine support from Diane Keton and Murial Hemmingway.

MEAN STREETS 19/3

A commercially neglected film which is regarded as an even more successful collaboration between Director Martin and Robert de Nero than

"Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull".

RICHARD PRYOR LIVE IN CONCERT.

The co-star of "Silver Streak", "Blazing Saddles" and lately "Stir Crazy", in his own one man show - you will laugh yourselves sick. It will be worth joining just to see this!

And of course many other films will be shown. See you in the Kinema next term.

MOVIE MOGULS.

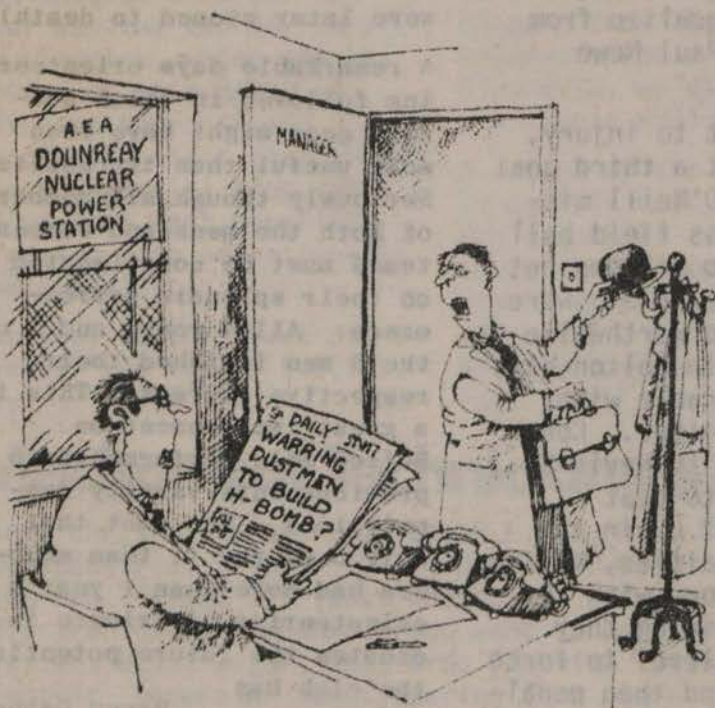
P.S. Anyone leaving this (slum, paradise, asylum) this year is welcome to rejoin the Society as a non student member.

Bye now.

Sailing Sea Shanty

We sailed the seven seas
In every type of breeze
Our sailors travelling far and wide
Coming in on every tide
To explain what I mean
I'll say where we've been.
Before Christmas some went
To Cork for a laser event
Where everything went so well
We came first needless to tell.
In the intervarsity team racing
We were all put through our pacing
'Twas the second month of the year
And we managed to come quite near
Winning, but sad to say were defeated
In a match that was quite heated
Against the winners - U.C.D.
Who altogether proved to be
Worthy holders of the title
We learned however it was vital
To have practice before the race
Which wasn't possible in this case.
For next year we hope to try
To gather enough money to buy
Some boats and help people learn
To sail - a craving yearn.

Orla Fitzgerald



"I knew we should have been more careful with the waste."

U.S.I.T. Cards Get them now!

Students' Union Office, D1, Main Building.